

SECOND AMENDMENT RIGHTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I come this afternoon to the House of Representatives to bring a message from Kansans and those who support the Second Amendment.

The United States Supreme Court ruled last year that the Second Amendment guarantees an individual's right to own firearms and that Washington DC's gun ban is unconstitutional. This decision was a win for all Americans and sent a message to governments across the country in support of Second Amendment freedoms.

Unfortunately in recent weeks we have heard from administration officials and gun control advocates that they are pushing to restrict an individual's gun rights, the rights guaranteed by our Constitution. Discussing escalating violence caused by drug cartels in Mexico, U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder last month called for reinstating the so-called assault weapons ban.

This is the wrong approach. Instead of punishing law-abiding American gun owners, our citizens, our country should be working to enforce existing gun laws that outlaw illegal purchases. We should secure our borders, and we should work to increase the cooperation between the United States and Mexican authorities.

Many Kansans are also concerned about H.R. 45, legislation that has been proposed to license gun owners and track firearms sales. I am hopeful that this bill does not have the support to be approved by this Congress.

An article in today's Wichita Eagle, our newspaper at home, highlights an ironic twist. The article reports that news of gun control efforts, along with concerns that crime will increase with a troubled economy, has ramped up the demand for firearms and ammunitions. Shortages are now common as retail stores are having trouble keeping guns and ammunition on the shelves.

I want to restate that our Founding Fathers established a Bill of Rights to our Constitution to make sure that American citizens can live in freedom without government intrusion. Human liberty and limited government are principles I hold in high regard.

I stand with Kansans in opposing efforts that violate the Second Amendment, and I will continue to cast my votes where it's necessary to protect our rights, including those provided for by the Second Amendment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. FLAKE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentle-

woman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

SALUTING 290TH MILITARY POLICE COMPANY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. KRATOVIL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KRATOVIL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 290th Military Police Company of Adelphi, Maryland. Earlier this month I had the honor of attending a welcome home ceremony for the soldiers.

In June of 1948, the "Defenders" received their original Federal recognition and were activated several times during the 1960s and 1970s to quell civil disturbance in Cambridge, Salisbury and Baltimore, Maryland. In 1990, the 290th was mobilized both in support of Operation Desert Shield and of Desert Storm.

On September 11, the 290th was again called to service to secure the crash site at the Pentagon while rescue and recovery operations took place. From there, the 290th was mobilized under Operation Noble Eagle for homeland defense.

The 290th was again called upon to help support Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. During the mission, the 290th provided force protection for key air bases, including those in Pakistan.

In 2005, when Hurricane Katrina devastated the gulf region, once again the 290th was sent to Mississippi to assist local law enforcement with emergency and relief operations. And, again, in October 2007, the 290th was once again mobilized and deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. This is a unit that has been asked to serve our Nation all over the world and right here at home, and each time it has responded to the call of duty valiantly and honorably. But now, deservedly, they are home.

Our Nation's greatest strength is the men and women who selflessly give of themselves to defend our ideals, and their families, who make sacrifices every day while their loved ones are in harm's way. I salute the 290th military police company and welcome them home, and pledge to be an advocate for them and all veterans of our Armed Forces.

Celebrating the valor of our Armed Forces is one thing, but here in Congress we must put our money where our mouth is and support the men and women of our Armed Forces, their families and our veterans, or we are merely providing lip service to them.

Mr. Speaker, I submit for the RECORD the members of the unit from Maryland's First Congressional District, who served so honorably.

Name, Rank, City:

Benitez, Luis Enrique, Jr, SPC, Bel Air, MD 21014; Fowler, Allen Mitchell, SGT, Bel Air, MD 21014; Sullens, Jeffrey Lee, SGT, Belcamp, MD 21017; Frederick, Robert, SPC, Preston, MD 21655; Zimmerman, Maria Masha, SPC, Preston, MD 21655; Wood, James Spencer, SPC, Cockeysville, MD 21030; Smack, Derrick Clinton, SPC, Delmar, MD 21875.

Dixon, Kassey Craig, SPC, Elkridge, MD 21075; Dixon, Kim Craig, SGT, Elkridge, MD 21075; Saunders, James Junior, 1SG, Hanover, MD 21076; Baschogeorge, Franklyn L, SGT, Jessup, MD 20794; Buckingham, Victoria Kathari, SGT, Laurel, MD 20708; Sadler, Brandon Anthony, SPC, Port Deposit, MD 21904; Ward, John Allen, SPC, Port Deposit, MD 21904.

Clayton, John Joseph, SSG, Annapolis, MD 21409; Tull, Thomas David, SSG, Severn, MD 21144; Windisch, Catherine Anne, SSG, Annapolis, MD 21409; Blevins, Richard Earl, SGT, Hebron, MD 21830; Calhoun, Susan Mabel, SGT, Delmar, MD 21875; Cannon, Anitra Chantal, SPC, Crisfield, MD 21817; Dixon, Joel Harrison, SPC, Salisbury, MD 21804.

Henley, Tony Mario, Jr, SPC, Pittsville, MD 21850; Houston, Martin Lee, Jr, SPC, Ocean City, MD 21842; Insley, Amber Joy, SPC, Princess Anne, MD 21853; Marvin, Andrew Michael, SGT, Salisbury, MD 21804; Richards, Johnathan, SPC, Pocomoke, MD 21851; Hunter, Christy Lynn, SGT, Crisfield, MD 21817.

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, while I was running for Congress last year, I noticed that Democrats everywhere were campaigning on the notion that they were fiscally responsible and would make wise decisions for our country based on what we could afford.

Frankly, as the former mayor of Johnson City, Tennessee, who has grown accustomed to balanced budgets and living within our means, this sounded pretty good. It made me excited to come to Washington and get our financial house in order.

My excitement, however, was short lived when I realized how thoughtlessly we would spend a billion dollars. First we approved the second \$350 billion of the Troubled Asset Relief Program, which is what people back home and I call a bailout of our banking institutions. Then we approved \$787 billion for what was called economic stimulus, but what was in reality a laundry list of spending items the Democrats hadn't been able to get funded the past few years and won't produce sustainable economic growth.

Just when I thought things couldn't get worse, we went out and passed a fiscal year 2009 omnibus spending bill that included \$410 billion and an 8 percent increase for our Federal agencies. I am going to pause for a second and let that sink in, an 8 percent increase at a time of record deficits where local county, city and State governments are cutting and balancing budgets.

I think the American people are so skeptical of what's happening in Washington because what they see people in

Washington do is disconnected completely from reality. The reality is in Johnson City, Tennessee, they are asking their agencies to fund a 5 percent cut over last year's budget.

All over America, families and State and local governments are tightening their belts and making do with what they have. Only in Washington do we respond to a huge drop in tax receipts by spending even more money.

Now the administration has proposed a \$3.9 trillion budget, which will be 27 percent of gross domestic product of this country. This will create the largest Federal Government since World War II.

This budget is especially troubling because it's coupled with tax increases, and our job creators have to pay for it. The math of these policies seems to be more government spending, plus higher taxes, equals more jobs and economic growth.

If this equation seems questionable to you, I'm right there with you. This budget spends too much, taxes too much and borrows too much.

I think the American people are beginning to question everything they hear being done in the name of economic stimulus and recovery. They heard "fiscally responsible" during the campaign and assumed that meant we would be looking for savings from ineffective programs and keep income in families pockets where it's most needed. They are getting just the opposite.

My House Republican colleagues prefer a simpler strategy that has proven effective time and time again. First you want to leave the money in the hands of the families to decide how to spend their own money. We proposed lowering the lowest two tax brackets from 15 to 10 percent and 10 to 5 percent respectively.

We would like to create tax incentives for small businesses, the engines of our economy, to create these jobs. We believe it's important to eliminate taxes on unemployment insurance, which will help those who have lost their jobs stay afloat until they find a new job.

And I believe we should invest in our transportation, water, education, and infrastructure. As a fiscal conservative, I generally don't like deficit spending unless future generations will get to enjoy the benefit of the spending.

By leaving a lasting infrastructure in place, our children will be able to enjoy the benefits, even if they are asked to pay for some of the costs. While I am hopeful we can consider these common-sense solutions, the fact is Republicans are in the minority. We don't have the ability to stop these harmful policies from going forward, only President Obama, and Democrats and Congress can.

I urge the American people to ask President Obama and his Democratic colleagues to fulfill their campaign promises of fiscal responsibility and stop these tax increases and wasteful

spending, and help restore our economy, which is still the strongest in the world.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CORRINE BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

OUTRAGED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. FORBES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I found it almost comical today, as I watched both on the floor and from my office, as one Member after the other has come to these podiums all across this Chamber, and they pounded on their desk, and they have screamed and they have all used the same word, "outraged."

They are outraged over the \$165 million in bonuses that AIG has paid and the \$90 million that AIG has paid to European banks and Wall Street investment firms. But I am outraged about something different. I am outraged that they are outraged, and the reason is because I am only one of 17 Members out of 435 Members who voted "no" on every single one of these so-called stimulus and bailout packages, for one reason: we didn't think it would work.

Mr. Speaker, as we were trying to raise our hands and just ask intelligent questions about them, we were finding that people were ignoring the rules and they were rushing them through, that there was a whole set of people out there screaming and yelling, if you just didn't pass this bill in this form, the sky was going to fall and the world was going to come to an end, and they pushed these bills through without legislative analysis. While we were trying to just tell people what was going on and simply ask the question nobody wanted to hear, they just wanted to pass the bills.

Mr. Speaker, I have a suggestion: just read the bills. If we had read those bills, we would know what most of the analysts are telling us now, and that is that it would take 100,000 to 250,000 government bureaucrats just to monitor where this money is going and how it's going to be spent.

And instead of coming to the podium and pounding it and saying how outraged they are, wouldn't it be novel if they came and just said "we are wrong. We admit we are wrong. We are not going to make those mistakes again."

But, Mr. Speaker, coming here and saying you are outraged is not some kind of get out of political hot water free card. In fact, it's like a sitcom. Imagine this situation: a husband goes out in this economic situation, buys an expensive new boat.

A few weeks later, the bill comes in the mail, and his wife opens it up. And she is steaming and seething and looking at how they are going to pay this payment.

And he walks in, and he looks at her, and she throws it across the table. And he picks up the bill, and he looks at it, realizes he can't make those payments, looks at her steaming and mad, and all of a sudden he pounds the table and he says, "Honey, I am outraged over this bill that I am having to pay." And that's where Congress is finding itself today.

Mr. Speaker, we wouldn't run our businesses that way. Only the government and AIG run theirs that way. We have a lot of people calling our offices and saying "What can I do?"

Well, here's what you can do. Go find out how people voted and then call them up and ask them why.

The second thing we can do is make sure we are going to stop this bailout madness and then simply do this. Before we take more options away from our children and grandchildren by mortgaging their future, let's simply ask these four questions: Where is the money actually going? How do we know it's going to get there? Will it work once it arrives? And how will we pay it back?

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Mr. Speaker, I would submit that perhaps if we do that, next time there will be more than 17 of us justified and actually coming to the podium, beating on it, and saying we are outraged.

CAP-AND-TRADE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SCHAUER). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CAPITO. Thank you.

I rise today to talk about the President's program for cap-and-trade. I'd like to take just a few minutes to explain it a little bit and talk to people about what this is really going to mean to them.

I represent the State of West Virginia. But here in the United States, coal is our most abundant resource. We have recoverable reserves that are sufficient for at least 250 years. Coal currently fuels 50 percent of all the electricity generated in this country.

In my home State of West Virginia, 98 percent of our electricity comes from coal. Our State has abundant resources. We give, and we turn on the lights in America.

There's been a lot of discussion surrounding the future of coal in this global warming debate. The first thing we need to remember is that anything we do, whether or not it's climate change, is inextricably linked with energy policies that are going to cascade across the environmental, economic, and social issues of the day.

So cap-and-trade. It sounds nice. Cap emissions and then trade away. What does that really mean?